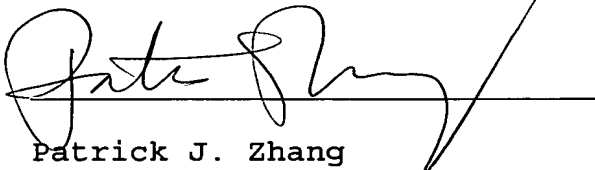


REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 14-24, 33-43, and 52-56 are pending in this case. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 20, 21, 23, 24, 39, 40, 42, and 43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,177,931 (hereinafter "Alexander") in view of Naimpally U.S. Patent No. 6,020,880 (hereinafter "Naimpally"). Claims 3, 22, and 41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander and Naimpally in view of Herz et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,020,883. Claims 14-19, 33-38, and 52-56 are allowed.

Applicants have canceled claims 1-5, 20-24, and 39-43 without prejudice, thereby rendering the Examiner's rejections moot. Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, prompt consideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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